

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 190568 TOSEC 080310  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY P:GMOOSE:CHG

APPROVED BY P - MR MOOSE

S/S-O:DPFOTENHAUER

-----107944 112359Z /15

O 112313Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 190568 TOSEC 080310

EXDIS FOR UNDER SEC HABIB

FOL RPT TEHRAN 7124 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO MOGADISCIO  
MOSCOW DTD 10 AUG 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T TEHRAN 7124

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IR SO US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE IRANIAN AID TO SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 186672 (NOTAL, (B) TEHRAN 7063

I WAS SUMMONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY URGENTLY ON MORNING  
AUG 10 BY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AZIMA TO DISCUSS  
ARMS TO SOMALIA. AZIMA SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY GENERAL  
AZHARI OF WASHINGTON RESPONSE (REF A) TO GOI REQUEST TO SHIP  
US-ORIGIN CARBINES TO SOMALIA.

2. AZIMA SAID IRANIANS WERE TOTALLY CONFUSED BY US POSITION

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AND NOW FOUND THEMSELVES IN EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING POSITION.  
AS THEY HAD CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO US EARLIER, THE SOMALIS  
HAD INSISTED THAT THE ARMS AND THE MILITARY MISSION WOULD  
HAVE TO ARRIVE IN SOMALIA TOGETHER. ACCORDINGLY, GOI HAD  
PREPARED TWO C-130 AIRCRAFT AUGUST 9, ONE TO CARRY 5-MAN  
MILITARY MISSION AND SECOND TO CARRY THE CARBINES.

3. MILITARY MISSION AIRDRAFT DEPARTED AUGUST 9 FOR SOMALIA AND WAS SCHEDULED ARRIVE AT MOGADISCIO JUST ABOUT AT THE MOMENT WE WER TALKING. BECAUSE OF US BLOCK ON TRANSFER OF ARMS, SECOND C-130 WAS STILL SITTING AT MEHRABAD AIRPORT, WITH ITS CARGO ALREADY LOADED, BUT ITS CREW ON STANDBY.

4. AZIMA FELT THERE WAS GOOD POSSIBILITY IRAN WOULD BE ACCUSED OF BAD FAITH BY SOMALIS, SINCE THE MISSION ARRIVED WITHOUT THE WEAPONS. IN ANY EVENT, HE FELT THE MISSION WOULD GET NOWHERE IN SOMALIA UNTIL WEAPONS ARRIVED. HE THEREFORE URGED THAT WASHINGTON, EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER STUDIES FOR MORE EXTENSIVE SUPPLY PROGRAM, GIVE IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE FOR CURRENT SHIPMENT.

5. I TOLD AZIMA THAT IT WAS MY ORIGINAL UNDERSTANDING THAT GOI INTENDED SHIP RIFLES MADE IN IRAN. I WAS THEREFORE SUPRISED THAT SHIPMENT NOW PREPARED TO FLY WAS OF US ORIGIN. AZIMA SAID THAT GENERAL AZHARI WAS INSTRUCTED TO SHIP ONLY WEAPONS CONSIDERED SURPLUS TO IRANIAN NEEDS. ALL IRANIAN MANUFACTURED RIFLES (OF GERMAN DESIGN) ARE BEING ISSUED AS PART-TIME WEAPONS. THE SURPLUS ARMS BEING REPLACED ARE THE M-1 CARBINES OF US ORIGIN. HENCE, THESE ARE THE WEAPONS CHOSEN FOR EXPORT TO SOMALIA.

6. I ASKED AZIMA FOR EXACT NUMBER OF RIFLES INVOLVED. HE  
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DID NOT HAVE EXACT FIGURE, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS ONE C-130 LOAD. HE SAID HE WOULD CALL ME LATER WITH TOTAL NUMBERS PACKED TO GO. IN MEANTIME HE ASKED ME NOT TO DELAY MESSAGE SEEKING WASHINGTON CLEARANCE.

7. WITHIN AN HOUR AFTER MY RETURN FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY, I WAS SET UPON BY MY VOLATILE LITTLE SOMALI COLLEAGUE, WHO HAD JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MOGADISCIO, COMPLAINING THAT THE MILITARY MISSION HAD ARRIVED THERE "SENZA ROBA" AND HAD EXPLAINED THAT THE RIFLES WERE AWAITING US CLEARANCE. HE LIKEWISE URGED IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON ACTION TO RELEASE THE RIFLES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE IT WAS THE US WHICH GOT THE IRANIANS INVOLVED THIS WHOLE EXERCISE (AS WE ARE CURRENTLY DOING WITH RESPECT TO CHAD), I SEE NO REPEAT NO ALTERNATIVE TO AN IMMEDIATE RELEASE PERMITTING THEM TO SEND THIS LOAD OF RIFLES TO SOMALIA. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SUCH A SMALL DELIVERY WILL HAVE MINISCULE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE MILITARY BALANCE, WHETHER IN OGADEN OR ELSEWHERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT COULD HAVE A TRULY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON THE POLITICAL SCALES WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING WEIGHED IN MOGADISCIO WHILE OUR WASHINGTON DELIBERATIONS CONTINUE.

SULLIVAN  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** MASS, US, IR, SO  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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